



# Sermon Series Notes

## "Great Devotion(s)" (Daniel 6)

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\* Daniel is between seventy and ninety something here in this story. He was about sixteen when taken captive into Babylon.

\* When Darius comes into power, Daniel is the third highest ruler in the kingdom (see Daniel 5:29).

### vv.1-4 Daniel's integrity

\* He was not corrupt or negligent

- 540. 'aman, (Chald.), am-an'; corresp. to H539:--believe, faithful, sure.

- 7960. shaluw, (Chald.), shaw-loo'; or shaluwth (Chald.), shaw-looth'; from the same as H7955; a fault:--error, X fail, thing amiss.

- 7844. shechath, (Chald.), shekh-ath'; corresp. to H7843:--corrupt, fault.

### v.4 The envy of Daniel's enemies because of his integrity

\* Matt.27: 18 For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

\* Prov.27: 4 Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?

\* Prov.14: 30 A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

### v.5 Daniel's testimony

\* They have nothing to accuse Daniel of except in relationship to his relationship with his God!

\* If people were looking to accuse us, what would they be able to accuse us of?

\* It's what Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael were accused of not worshipping any god except the true God.

\* It's what the antichrist will do when he comes.

- II Thess.2:1-12

### vv.6-9 A diabolical plan and an unrepealable decree.

\* They prey on Darius' ego

\* Note: Evidently the choice of the means of capital punishment varied with people then just as it does in our day. Neb liked fire (a fire-man); Darius liked lions. Maybe he was a member of the Lion's Club!

### v.10 WOW!!! What a cool cucumber Daniel is here!!

vv.11-13 The plan progresses

\* Note: The emphasis one of the exiles from Judah.

v.14 A distressed king with a determination to rescue Daniel.

v.15 No way out!

vv.16-17 A sealed fate

v.18 A somnolent evening for the king!

v.20 I believe there was a long pause before Daniel answered. I believe he was asleep. I believe he slept warm and comfortable

v.21 Daniel is not bitter at the king!

v.23 Daniel was willing to be wounded, even though God rescued him.

\* NOTE: If I knew ahead of time that God was going to rescue me, going into the Lion's den would be a lot easier!

- Heb.11: Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection.

36 Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison.

37 They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated--

38 the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

39 These were all commended for their faith,

\* ILLUS: Sitting with my kids recently around a big fire, talking about Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael (Shadrach, Meshech and Abednego) asked them what we would do if someone threatened to throw us in the fire if we didn't bow down and worship some false god

v.24 The end of Daniel's enemies!

- Note: These lions were hungry! This adds to the credibility of the story

- Whole family suffered as a result of folly of the parents

- Prov.1: 10 My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them.

11 If they say, "Come along with us; let's lie in wait for someone's blood, let's waylay some harmless soul;

12 let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit;

13 we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder;

14 throw in your lot with us, and we will share a common purse"--

15 my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths;

16 for their feet rush into sin, they are swift to shed blood.

17 How useless to spread a net in full view of all the birds!

18 These men lie in wait for their own blood; they waylay only themselves!

- Prov.11: 8 The righteous man is rescued from trouble, and it comes on the wicked instead.

- Haman and Mordecai; King Saul, Ahab and Jezebel, Judas

vv.25-27 Daniel's testimony spreads throughout the world!

## CONCLUSION:

\* Many times this story is told with emphasis on the great deliverance by God in saving Daniel from the lion's den. While that is indeed part of the story, I have come to believe that the emphasis should not be placed so much on the deliverance of Daniel from the lions, but the devotion of Daniel in spite of the lions! I have come to see this story not so much as about a great deliverance as it is about a great devotion

## ADDENDUM: PICKING APART DANIEL'S DEVOTIONAL LIFE (vv.10-11)

\* Why windows open toward Jerusalem?

- I Kings 8: 47 and if they have a change of heart in the land where they are held captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their conquerors and say, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong, we have acted wickedly';

48 and if they turn back to you with all their heart and soul in the land of their enemies who took them captive, and pray to you toward the land you gave their fathers, toward the city you have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name;

49 then from heaven, your dwelling place, hear their prayer and their plea, and uphold their cause.

50 And forgive your people, who have sinned against you; forgive all the offenses they have committed against you, and cause their conquerors to show them mercy;

- II Chron.6: 20 May your eyes be open toward this temple day and night, this place of which you said you would put your Name there. May you hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place.

21 Hear the supplications of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place; and when you hear, forgive 34 "When your people go to war against their enemies, wherever you send them, and when they pray to you toward this city you have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name,

35 then hear from heaven their prayer and their plea, and uphold their cause

- Muslims pray toward Mecca (airport prayer rooms, etc.)

\* Got down on his knees

- a begging posture

- a submissive posture

- Ps.5: 7 But I, by your great mercy, will come into your house; in reverence will I bow down toward your holy temple.

- Ps.22: 27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him,

28 for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.

29 All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him

- Ps.72: 11 All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him.

- Ps.95:1 Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

3 For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.  
4 In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.  
5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.  
6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;  
7 for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.  
- Phil.2: 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the  
earth,  
11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

\* He gave thanks

- What in the world was he thanking God for in this situation?

- I Thess.5: 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in  
Christ Jesus.

- Psalm 100: 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give  
thanks to him and praise his name.

\* He asked for help (v.11)

- He asked for help directly from his God; how easy it is to seek help from  
everywhere/everyone except God

\* He prayed three times a day

- Read Psalm 55

- Jews hours of prayer were 9, 12, and 3 (?)

- Three meals a day; Jesus three times in the Garden

\* He prayed just as he had done before

- He did not begin to pray fervently AFTER the crisis

- Most of our prayer lives intensify when crisis hits. Not Daniel's. His prayer life was  
fervent already. If our devotional lives are fervent before crisis moments in life, then we will face  
those crisis moments with much greater resolve, with much greater ability to endure, with much  
greater PEACE.

\* See Phil.3:4-7

\* Isa.26: 3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because  
he trusteth in thee.

4 Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength: